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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6853

BILL NUMBER: SB 215

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 30, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Madison County Courts.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Lanane

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes a unified circuit court for Madison County by combining the current judge of the Madison Circuit Court and the five judges of the Madison Superior Court into a unified circuit court with six judges. It specifies that the Madison Superior Court judges serving on June 30, 2010, serve as judges of the unified Madison Circuit Court. It transfers all cases and other matters pending in the Madison Superior Court at the close of business on June 30, 2010, to the Madison Circuit Court on July 1, 2010. It repeals provisions concerning the establishment and operation of the Madison Superior Court.

Effective Date: July 1, 2010.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill potentially increases operational efficiencies for the Madison County courts. These five courts employed 156 persons in CY 2008, including 52 juvenile detention employees, 29 probation officers, and 22 public defenders.

The Indiana Supreme Court's weighted caseload methodology compares each court's estimated workload with its judicial officers through a ratio, called the utilization rate. The utilization rates of Madison County courts shown below are based on CY 2008 filings. Their utilization rates range from 5% below the statewide average of 1.25 to 45% above the state average.

Utilization Rates of the Madison Circuit and Superior Courts in CY 2008					
Circuit	Superior 1	Superior 2	Superior 3	Superior 4	Superior 5
1.43	1.56	1.82	1.44	1.2	1.19

The judges in the court would adopt rules to ensure that the court operates efficiently and judicially.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Division of State Court Administration.

Local Agencies Affected: Madison Circuit and Superior Courts.

Information Sources: *Indiana Judicial Report 2008*.

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